

Israelis seal off 4 Arab homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army sealed the Akas refugee camp homes of four Palestinians suspected of throwing fire bombs at Israeli vehicles in the occupied West Bank, Israeli officials said Wednesday. Two houses were completely sealed with concrete and single rooms in two other homes were similarly rendered useless in the camp outside Nablus, the largest town in the West Bank, they said. The Israelis seal houses as a "collective punishment" against Arabs suspected of anti-Israeli resistance activities. The Palestine Press Service, which monitors news in the areas occupied territories, identified the Akas families as those of Majed Abdul Khader Abu Kishke, Khaled Ismail Rumani, Jamal Mohammad Abu Kishke and Shehade Kamel Abu Hayt. Most of the Palestinian residents of the Akas camp fled in 1948, and the area has been a frequent scene of resistance attacks on Israeli vehicles and troops.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

King Hassan begins visit to France

PARIS (R) — King Hassan of Morocco arrived here on Wednesday for a three-day state visit, underlining his country's status as a key partner for France in North Africa. President Francois Mitterrand, who met the king at Orly airport, said he was looking forward to discussing bilateral and world problems. "Morocco is marching towards the future," Mr. Mitterrand said. Rivalry between Algeria and Morocco over the Western Sahara has forced Mr. Mitterrand into a delicate balancing act in trying to improve relations with each Maghreb state while not offending the other. The state honours given to King Hassan this week will closely follow the pattern of those conferred on Algeria's President Chadli Benjedid who made a state visit to France two years ago. King Hassan said in an interview with French journalists before leaving Rabat that he would discuss with Mr. Mitterrand Morocco's plan to buy 24 French Mirage 2.000 fighter-bombers, a deal which is likely to provoke Algeria's hostility.

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Thatcher says Bonn will join SDI

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said after talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Wednesday she believed Bonn would join London in taking part in the U.S. "Star Wars" strategic defence initiative (SDI). "With regard to SDI we are each making our own arrangements with the United States... It is my belief that we are likely to sign agreements, both of us, before Christmas," Mrs. Thatcher told a news conference. Britain until today was the only West European country to have indicated firm interest in participating in President Ronald Reagan's SDI plan.

SLA posts set ablaze in attacks

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Commandos shelled and set ablaze two positions held by Israeli-backed militiamen on the edge of Israel's "security zone," Lebanese security sources in the south said Wednesday. A spokesman for the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia told a radio station more than 50 mortar shells hit the two positions on Yater and Rashaf hills Tuesday night.

OIC ministers to meet in January

JEDDAH (R) — Foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will hold their annual meeting in Morocco in January to discuss hijackings and a number of other issues, the Jeddah-based OIC announced Wednesday. The meeting will be held from Jan. 6 to 10 in Marrakech, preceded by two days of discussions among senior officials. Shafiq Kakakel, assistant director of the OIC general secretariat cabinet, said in a statement.

Sweden may close embassy in Beirut

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Sweden is expected to close its embassy in war-torn Beirut, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Wednesday. The spokesman said that civil servants at the Foreign Ministry had recommended a closure of the embassy until further notice to Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, who was expected to make a decision shortly.

Unknown group threatens Italy

BEIRUT (AP) — A previously unknown group has threatened attacks against "the government and people of Italy" because of alleged mistreatment of Arab prisoners. Beirut's An Nahar daily reported Wednesday. In a statement published by the newspaper, the self-styled "Committee of Support of Arab Political Detainees in Italy" warned Italy would bear the consequences "that may result from maintaining Arab fighters in captivity." The statement mentioned the names of Abdullah Mansouri and Josephine Abdo Sarkis. They are among several Arabs held in Italian prisons as suspected extremists.

King welcomes signs of serious Arab efforts to unify and mobilise ranks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday expressed pleasure and deep satisfaction over the emergence of signs that point to "genuine determination, goodwill and serious attempts" by Arab countries to settle their differences and mobilise their potentials.

The King also vowed that Jordan will pursue efforts for providing its armed forces with most modern weapons and equipment despite the difficulties encountered in that endeavour. Addressing a ceremony for the graduation of a new batch of army officers from the Royal Command and Staff Academy, the King said the main source of tension in the Middle East stems from the usurpation of the Palestinian people's rights and the continued Israeli occupation of Arab Jerusalem. Israel's military power, the King said, stands as a barrier in the face of recovering these rights and helps the Jewish state to maintain its occupation of Arab lands.

The Jordanian Armed Forces form an inseparable part of the Arab Nation and will continue to serve as an element of power for the nation, checking Zionist expansionist designs in the Arab Orient, the King said.

He voiced deep satisfaction and pleasure at the emergence of signs that point to "genuine determination and goodwill and serious attempts on the part of Arab countries towards unifying their ranks and mobilising their potentials to confront challenges and repel dangers that threaten the Arab Nation from inside and outside."

Cairo seeks custody of hijacker as Malta pursues its own probe

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt asked Malta to extradite the surviving hijacker of an Egyptian jet for trial in the weekend takeover which left 59 people dead, a government statement said on Wednesday.

The statement said the request was made so the suspect, identified by Maltese authorities as Omar Marzouki, "can be tried under Egyptian law since this is Egypt's right under international law."

In Valletta, Maltese justice officials questioned survivors of the hijacked Egyptian airliner as the government steered clear of political controversy over who was responsible.

It was not known if the hijack leader had been interrogated on Wednesday.

The government said several people had identified Marzouki as leader of the five-man squad which hijacked the Egyptian Boeing 737 with 93 other people on board between Greece and Egypt on Saturday, and forced it to Malta's Luqa airport.

The hijack, one of the bloodiest in aviation history, ended a day later when Egyptian commandos stormed the plane.

Maltese government spokesman Paul Mifsud said Marzouki was in satisfactory condition in St. Luke's Hospital in Valletta with unspecified injuries received in the commando assault.

The spokesman said Marzouki had been questioned by police but "his health condition has not permitted yet any in-depth interrogation."

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said on Monday the hijackers were members of an undisclosed Palestinian group opposed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Mubarak said Libya appeared to be involved with the hijackers.

Asked what charges Marzouki could face here in the event of his extradition, Egyptian state security prosecutor Raga' Al Arabi listed endangering transportation, murder and espionage. Mr. Arabi said penalties could range from death to lengthy imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

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Waite sees face-saving way for hostage release

WASHINGTON (R) — British church envoy Terry Waite has said he believed a deal could be struck for the release of four Americans held hostage in Beirut that did not embarrass their captors or governments involved.

Mr. Waite told reporters before and after a meeting with U.S. Vice President George Bush: "I think there's a way through the problem given patience and goodwill all around."

The 46-year-old Anglican Church official said he did not think the solution should involve "any party compromising or, on points of principle, cause any embarrassment to any government at all."

Mr. Waite was in Beirut last week to negotiate for the release of Roman Catholic priest Lawrence Jenco. Associated Press Correspondent Terry Anderson and American University employee Thomas Sutherland and David Jacobson.

He said he had no information

at the moment on the fate of two other Americans missing in Lebanon, but indicated some word about diplomat William Buckley and librarian Peter Kilburn might be forthcoming.

"One would never say that they are dead because one has no proof positive that they are alive or dead," Mr. Waite said.

"I think more information may be forthcoming," he added.

Mr. Waite, an aide to the Archbishop of Canterbury, said that as part of his effort to free the hostages he had requested a meeting with Kuwaiti officials whose government had imprisoned 17 Arab guerrillas.

Guerrilla groups have staged several attacks to try to secure their release, and there had been

speculation release of the prisoners might help to free the hostages.

While he did not rule out such an arrangement entirely, Mr. Waite told reporters he backed the Reagan administration's refusal to put pressure on the Kuwaiti government.

"I myself would not wish to see any principle of law or justice that is held to by the Kuwaiti government breached in any way," he said.

"There is no way in which I'm going to ask them to breach any principle or change any formally declared position."

He said the hostages' captors knew and understood how he feels about the matter.

Mr. Waite said he had given Mr. Bush a general briefing "on some ways in which I think the matter can be resolved" and planned to meet other officials during his visit to Washington.

He declined to be more specific, saying further discussion could endanger the hostages and himself.

Red Cross volunteers terrified by latest Beirut fighting

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Red Cross volunteers in Beirut regularly brave "car bombs, gunfire and shelling to save lives, but for them the latest street fighting between Druze and Shiite Muslim militias was the most terrifying.

They said they faced a constant threat of death and harassment by militiamen as the Druze-led Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) battled the Shiite Amal Movement for five days. The fighting ended on Sunday.

For four nights Red Cross, civil defence and fire brigade workers were virtually the only people to venture into the deserted streets of West Beirut. The fire brigade refused to go anywhere without a Red Cross escort as fires blazed out of control.

"None of us was wounded or hurt. It was a miracle, but the risk was there every minute," 19-year-old Red Cross worker Abed Aris told Reuters.

The workers, all volunteers, had endless tales to tell of the perils they faced as militiamen blazed away at close range with assault rifles, grenade launchers and anti-aircraft guns.

"Both militias shot at us at one time or another. We were not respected by anyone," said Souheil Hammoud, whose job was to coordinate with the militias on the movement of ambulances and evacuation of casualties.

"We were a target, but we had to do our job," Ghaleb Nasr, 21, said, relating bitterly how his ambulance had arrived under fire at a checkpoint where a gunman told him: "I shot at you. Were you scared?"

"On Friday we were evacuating a wounded woman from the Mazraa area when rocket-propelled grenades were deliberately fired at us and bullets fell like rain," Aris said. "The ambulance driver was driving like a crazy man and the woman was screaming, not from pain but for fear of being injured again."

For the first three days of fighting, the Red Cross operated with only three ambulances and 40 volunteers.

Egyptair hostages helped plan rescue attack

CAIRO (Agencies) — Two injured air hostesses released from a hijacked Egyptair jet in Malta gave commanders vital information to plan the attack on the plane, the operation commander was quoted Wednesday.

"We went to the hospital and found out from the two wounded air hostesses that there were four hijackers and where they were so we could enter the plane without any losses," Maj.-Gen. Mohammad Kamal Al Din Attia told the state-owned daily Al Akhbar.

The stewardesses, who the paper said received "unspecified injuries" were among several women released Sunday by the hijackers before the commando attack.

Fifty-eight people died when commandos stormed the Boeing 737, which had been hijacked Saturday on a flight from Athens, Greece to Cairo. Gunmen killed a 59th passenger, an American woman, before the attack.

President Hosni Mubarak told reporters Tuesday the others died after the gunmen tossed grenades through the cabin. He denied reports from Malta that commandos accidentally shot some of the victims.

Gen. Attia told the newspaper that the decision to attack the plane was taken after the hijackers

threatened to kill the hostages and blow up the aircraft.

"They also refused any medical help or supplies," he added. "When they refused to hand over the children or allow authorities to pick up the bodies of passengers thrown under the plane, we knew we had to storm the plane," Gen. Attia said.

Col. Ismail Abdul-Mawgoud, who planned the attack, told Al Akhbar that six commandos drove in an airport bus from their C-130 transport plane to a place near the hijacked aircraft where the gunmen could not see them.

"After we deployed sharpshooters around the plane, another group got into the baggage compartment to divert the hijackers' attention," Col. Abdul-Mawgoud said. "The rest of the group attacked through the front and emergency doors."

The paper said one of the gunmen threw a grenade at Capt. Ibrahim Dahroug, the first commando to enter the plane. Mr. Mubarak told reporters Tuesday that Capt. Dahroug's leg had to be amputated at the knee as a result of his injury.

Egyptian officials said none of the commandos died in the assault. Mr. Mubarak told reporters an unspecified number of them received shrapnel wounds.

The two commandos said in the interviews that their men fired only seven bullets, hitting three of the hijackers. Mr. Mubarak said the passengers died from "shrapnel, phosphorous bombs and suffocation."

"The storming operation took one and a half minutes, then the hijackers threw the bombs and the evacuation of the passengers started, as for the rest, they were dead," Col. Abdul-Mawgoud said.

Capt. Ahmad Hanafy told the newspaper that his fellow commando Capt. Mustafa Al Hedewy killed one of the hijackers in the rear of the plane and then helped save "at least eight hostages from a likely death."

Rescue attack filmed

Egyptian Commandos filmed their raid on the hijacked airliner and officials are now reviewing the film, a top Egyptian official said on American network television.

"We are studying it very carefully because we have it on film," Dr. Osama Al Baz, chief political adviser to Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, said on ABC Television.

The United States has praised Egypt's decision to storm the plane.

Dr. Baz said the United States offered the Egyptian commandos the use of sophisticated communications equipment but Egypt said it did not need the help.

"We thought that the operation should remain an Egyptian operation," he said.

The hijacking and the rescue have worsened Egypt's already strained relations with Libya.

But Dr. Baz said that while Egypt is fortifying its defences, it is not considering launching a war against Libya.

U.S. urges constructive approach on Mideast

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A senior U.S. official contends that an international conference on the Middle East in the present context would "simply be an attempt to gang up on Israel and the United States" and would set back the peace process.

While the Soviets reiterated at the Geneva summit their support for an international conference to resolve problems in the Middle East, the United States believes that continuation of the momentum achieved by Israel and Egypt would be a more fruitful approach, Mark Palmer said on Nov. 26.

Mr. Palmer is assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs. He was interviewed

in a U.S. Information Agency satellite television "Worldnet" interview with reporters in Ankara, Brussels, Ottawa, Oslo, Madrid and Tel Aviv on the results of the Nov. 19-21 U.S.-Soviet summit.

Mr. Palmer said the United States wants a more constructive Soviet approach to the Middle East that would begin by encouraging "moderation and reconciliation." The Soviets should stop supporting the more radical countries and intransigent elements of the region, he added.

After a brief probe at the Geneva summit to see whether the Soviet attitude toward the Arab-Israeli peace process had changed in any way, the United States concluded there was no change on key

matters, Mr. Palmer noted.

That process, he said in reply to a question, has not been helped by the Egyptian airliner hijacking, which ended with a rescue attempt on Nov. 24 in Malta. "It's a reminder of the fact that there are elements there — like Libya and others — that do not seem to want peace, that do not seem to want to recognize the existence of Israel," he said.

Moscow's position on the hijacking is still not clear, Mr. Palmer said. The Soviets have recently supported an anti-hijacking resolution at the United Nations, and "we hope that their political policy will begin to follow that line, but it is still early to conclude that... they are opportunistic in these situations."

Iraq revives ancient arts festival

BAGHDAD (R) — More than 1,000 poets, writers and critics from Arab and other countries have gathered in Baghdad to revive a centuries-old poetry festival.

The "Mirbad" Festival, dating back to the dawn of Islam more than 1,400 years ago, is an arena of poetic art duels where participants trade verses.

Great poets have emerged from the old Mirbads, like Jarir. Far-

azdaq, Bohtori and others considered as landmarks in the history of Arab literature.

The Iraqi government has shifted the festival, which began Tuesday, from its traditional site at Basra because of the city's proximity to the Gulf war front.

The festival was opened by an Iraqi girl dressed in white telling the audience she was the daughter of a "martyr."

A chorus of girls, dressed in bright colours, chanted patriotic songs hailing the heroism of Iraqi soldiers, likening them to old poet knights who sacrificed themselves defending Arab honour.

Famed Arab poet Nizar Jabbari gave a speech on behalf of participants in the week-long contest, describing Iraq as "the motherland of Arab poetry."

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19:30	Scientific programme for children
20:00	Supergirl
20:30	Contests programme
21:00	Week's events
21:30	Tomorrow's programme
22:00	News in Arabic
22:30	Arabic Series
23:00	Tomorrow's programmes and varieties
23:30	Arabic Play
24:00	News in Arabic
24:30	Film continued
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
08:00	French Programme: Chapelle
09:00	News in French
10:00	Coups de soleil
11:00	News in Hebrew
12:00	News in Arabic
13:00	Emergency Room
14:00	Scene of Crime
15:00	Varieties
16:00	News in English
17:00	Feature Film: Sappho and Son Ride Again
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07:30	News
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Queen promotes Jordan exhibition of national heritage in W. Germany

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor conferred at Al Nadwa Palace Wednesday with a team from the museum of Cultural Anthropology in Cologne, West Germany, on the possibility of setting up an exhibition of Jordanian heritage in West Germany.

The team comprised Dr. Gisela Voger, the director of the museum, and Baroness Dr. Karin Von Welck, her deputy, who were accompanied by West German Ambassador to Jordan Mr. Herwig Barrels and Mrs. Widad Kassar, a collector of local heritage.

Discussion at the meeting centred on the possibility of a Jordanian exhibition that would display local crafts, national costumes, and equipment used in traditional architecture. Such an exhibition is tentatively planned for early 1987 in Cologne, and may later be displayed in other West German cities.

Her Majesty Queen Noor later met with Mr. Neal Keny, regional director for Middle East and North Africa of the Save the Children Federation (SCF), who was accompanied by Rebecca Saldi, a Jordanian field officer and director of the Save the Children Federation. The Queen discussed with them projects that are being carried out by the Queen Noor Foundation in cooperation with

the SCF and which aim at raising the living and social standards of local families in Jordan. The projects also aim at reviving traditional crafts through encouraging family members to produce handicrafts and traditional products to be marketed here and abroad.

The Queen Noor Foundation projects also aim at imparting education on preventive medicine to people in remote areas of Jordan.

The SCF is a private organisation based in the United States with projects in 43 countries around the world, including Arab states.

Pakistani president reaffirms support for Palestinian people

AMMAN (J.T.) — President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan sent a message of solidarity and support for the Palestinian people on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which falls on November 29.

In his message, the Pakistani president praised the heroic stand of the Palestinian people in the face of Zionist aggression and repressive policies, and denounced Israel for its repressive policies, which he called "the root cause of turbulence in the Middle East."

President Zia called for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and respect for the Palestinian right to self-determination, including their right to establish a Palestinian state, as "indispensable elements for any comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem."

President Zia's message also expressed support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the representative of the people of

Palestine.

The following is the complete text of the message from the Pakistani president:

In observing the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, the government and the people of Pakistan join the international community in renewing their pledge of unstained support and solidarity with their Palestinian brothers and sisters who are waging a relentless struggle for the restoration of their inalienable national rights.

On this solemn occasion we pay tribute to the heroic people of Palestine who have with courage and determination resisted the illegal occupations of their homeland by the Zionist entity. Their great sacrifices for the cause of freedom and justice have won our lasting admiration.

Israel's policies and actions betray a strong contempt for the will of the international community, international law and the norms of civilised conduct. In pursuit of its expansionist aims Israel has res-

orted to repeated aggression, and ruthless suppression of the Arab and Palestinian population of the occupied territories. Its recent unprovoked air attack against Tunis provides further evidence of its intention to keep the area permanently destabilised in order to assert its military dictat.

The government of Pakistan strongly denounces Israel for its repressive policies, which are the root cause of turbulence in the Middle East and pose a threat to international peace and security. It is evident that the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people cannot be subjugated by terror and repression nor can they be held in abeyance indefinitely.

It is the historic and moral responsibility of the international community to extend full support to the Palestinian people. Coordinated efforts must also be made to check and reverse the course of Israeli adventurism and in overcoming its intransigence to all initiatives for a just and durable peace in the Middle East.



The failure of Hussein Ali Ibrahim Al Bitar to dispose of this building, owned by Abu Nidal's wife, allegedly led to Mr. Bitar's murder last Sunday in Amman.

Details emerge on killing of Bitar by Abu Nidal

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hussein Ali Bitar the man who was assassinated Sunday by a murder squad in the pay of extremist Palestinian leader Sabri al Banna (Abu Nidal), was a brother in law of the extremist leader, and was killed because he failed to sell a building in Amman and would not buy it himself, according to the victim's wife, who was quoted in the Arabic daily Sawi Al Shaab.

Mrs. Bitar said that the building belonged to the victim's sister, Hiyam, who is also Abu Nidal's wife and that the victim had been unable to sell it despite advertising in the local press.

Mrs. Bitar said that the building was built on a piece of land at Dahiet Al Rashid in Amman in 1967 and that Hiyam had come to Amman to visit the building carrying a fake passport, since she is banned from entering the country. Hiyam told her brother that Abu Nidal wanted to sell the building, Mrs. Bitar explained.

She said that Mr. Bitar held a power of attorney to sell the property for JD 150,000 as Abu Nidal requested and that he advertised it in the papers without success.

"Recently, we received several telephone calls threatening to do us harm if we did not sell the building as soon as possible or buy it ourselves," Mrs. Bitar added. She said: "Three strange men

visited us several times asking to see my husband and claiming that they came from Abu Dhabi and that they lived in Marj."

"The killing of my husband was not expected at all, because Mr. Bitar had no enemies, and it had not crossed our minds that the strange visitors were planning a murder. Otherwise, we would have reported the matter to the police," Mrs. Bitar said.

Mrs. Bitar also revealed that she has a son Mohammad who studies in Poland and from whom she has not heard for three years. She said that she presumed that Abu Nidal's men were detaining him as a hostage until Abu Nidal received the price of the building. "I am even afraid to go to Poland to inquire about my son's whereabouts for fear of revenge and kidnapping," Mrs. Bitar said.

The bereaved wife said she was grateful for Jordanian security men who seized the three assassins to receive the punishment they deserve.

The assassination of Mr. Bitar was reported by the Ministry of Interior, which said that the killing took place on Sunday noon and that the group had admitted to committing their crime for what they said was a settlement of a financial dispute between Abu Nidal and the victim.

Prince Hassan calls for sound regional planning

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hussein said here Wednesday that His Majesty King Hussein was deeply interested in comprehensive regional planning in the Kingdom in order to lay a sound basis for development, and that the coming regional plans aim at creating a long term structural strategy for Jordan's governorates.

Prince Hassan, speaking at a meeting held at the governor's office here to discuss a five year development plan for the Irbid region, called on officials and planners to lay down a comprehensive plan for the proper and fruitful use of land for industry, agriculture and services both at the national level and also for each separate region.

He also called for the establishment of a land bank to facilitate the exchange of land owned by the private or the public sectors to help in the exploitation of land in the best possible and most useful manner. He said proper attention should be given to land since it helps determine manpower needs.

Referring to industry in the Irbid region, Prince Hassan stressed the need for efforts by industrialists to develop industry in Irbid governorate and called on concerned authorities to facilitate this by offering incentives for successful industry. He said one of these industries should be an iron casting plant which would serve as a basis for different industries in Irbid governorate.

Prince Hassan said that priorities should be defined for all projects and schemes in the region of Irbid and that projects that generate income and create jobs in the region should be given priority over others. Prince Hassan said that housing projects in rural regions should also be given priority because they help to keep the local population on their land.

He also stressed the need for coordinating all projects carried out by various municipal councils with the Ministry of Planning.

Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour, who also attended the meeting, said the government plans to expand health services in all regions in a balanced manner. Dr. Nsour also paid tribute to all those who took part in preparing the regional plan for Irbid governorate.

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After the speeches, Prince Hassan heard a briefing by heads of the eight divisions on their work and their contribution to the general plan.

Ministers receive Romanian delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting Romanian Minister of Planning Ion Constantinescu conferred here Wednesday with Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh on ways of developing Jordanian-Romanian cooperation in the road construction business and the exchange of expertise in this area.

Mr. Hawamdeh explained to the Romanian minister his ministry's projects in the coming (1986-1990) national development plan.

The meeting was attended by Romanian Ambassador to Jordan Andrei Cervencovici and the Jordanian delegation.

Afterwards, the Romanian delegation called on Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisam Al Khatib to discuss cooperation in energy-related affairs. The ministry's undersecretary, Dr. Ibrahim Badran, Director of the Jordan Electricity Authority

emorate and said that it is linked with a national plan.

Also speaking at the meeting was Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, who said that the plan divides Irbid governorate into eight large divisions containing 36 units inhabited by a total of 631,000 people. He said that care was taken in drawing up the plan for distributing services fairly and equitably, and that priority has been given for developing agricultural land and industrial projects.

Later, Dr. Ahmad Sheikh, director of regional planning at the Ministry of Planning told the audience that before the plan was laid down a comprehensive survey was conducted of the Irbid region and that the 80 members of the ministry's teams met with heads of municipal and village councils and representatives of commercial and industrial organisations to take their views into consideration.

The Ministry of Planning has also prepared several working papers that deal with the social and economic aspects of the Irbid region, he said.

After the speeches, Prince Hassan heard a briefing by heads of the eight divisions on their work and their contribution to the general plan.

Guiragossian exhibit should not be missed

By Josephine Zanaari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Art exhibitions come and go in Amman, few are long remembered. The current display at the Petra Bank, by Mr. Paul Guiragossian is one of the exceptions. A stylish, polished, and sophisticated collection of paintings by one of Lebanon's most gifted artists, its spirit should linger long in Amman.

Although born in Jerusalem in 1926, Mr. Guiragossian spent most of his life in Beirut and is considered a Lebanese painter. In a book devoted to his works, he explains the development of his style throughout his long career. The first paintings are innocent representations of life surrounding the artist.

"I started with human figures around me in my quarter, men, women, children — their weddings, their sadness, their problems." These early groups were to remain an important influence in his following work. The Expressionist Movement infused his later paintings with both a new oriental and a symbolic spirit.

frail and courtly Mr. Guiragossian continues. "The artist must know history, he has to feel everything from the stone age until now. His paintings must both follow tradition and yet give pleasure."

A short glance at the Petra Bank exhibition indicates not only the skill of the painter but the depth of his understanding of the physical and spiritual world around him. With a few tidy hand gestures he explains the content of his work. "You look at a figure in black you feel sadness. You look at a woman and you see a waterfall. You sense the war and peace, the delicateness and the sobriety as the figures stand, tied together, unsure and unable to move. Their colours are from nature, from flowers. In every group there is a child and his innocence, there is the day and the light." The gentle voice fades.

The stylised groups of his later works and of the thirty five paintings on display at the exhibition belong firmly in that tradition. The conglomerate figures on each canvas are a microcosm of Mr. Guiragossian's artistic philosophy. "You have to paint what you believe, your colours must be cognitive, the form of the painting must be visible and the composition readable." Leaning forward on his back walking stick, the

JESORS: management and the military spirit make a dynamic development combination

By William D. Cordes
Special to the Jordan Times

The Jordanian Economic and Social Development Organisation (JESORS) for Retired Servicemen (JESORS) was founded by a Royal Decree in 1974. While most associations of retired people devote their efforts to charitable, educational, or patriotic activities, JESORS seems to be on its way to becoming a driving force in the development of the Jordanian economy. This article, the first of a two-part series, will describe the nature of the organisation and examine three of its farming operations in Jordan.

On its surface, JESORS is rather unpretentious. It boasts some 11,000 members, drawn from the ranks of those retired from Jordan's Army, police, civil defence, and civil servants. Its membership fees are modest: JD 12 per year for officers and JD 6 for soldiers. JESORS offers its members air travel discounts on Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and provides low-cost housing, built by its own construction company. JESORS also helps its members procure productive employment, both in its own operations and in the private sector.

It is in the sphere of its own operations, however, that it first becomes apparent there is more to JESORS than meets the eye. An agricultural section, industrial section, and commercial section were added to the original construction division after reorganisation in 1982-1983. This reorganisation may prove to have been a watershed in JESORS operations, for it brought improved management which, added to the organisation's military spirit, has proved to be a potent business and development combination.

Irfan A. Rubi, formerly of the Ministry of Agriculture and now an agricultural engineer and management assistant to JESORS, describes the spirit of its members this way: "I'm not a military man, but I do find the work with them (JESORS) very successful and very fruitful, because the military spirit is with them. When you tell them—'you have to do this, you have to do that', they are completely abiding and it has to be done."

The military spirit harnessed to the new organisational methods explains in large part the success of JESORS' construction division since 1982. "The good thing with the construction section under the new method of handling this kind of thing is that all the tenders which have been taken since 1982, up till now have been finished and delivered before the time schedule in the contract. All of them," said Mr. Rubi with obvious pride.

He added that despite JESORS governmental baptism, it competes in the market like any other private company. "This is a semi-official organisation — only the

chairman and director general are appointed by a Royal Decree — but working completely on a private basis. So, we are competing with other companies, in agriculture, or construction, or industry, as any other individual private company," emphasised Mr. Rubi.

How successfully they compete, and how successful the marriage of management and the military spirit, was readily apparent during a JESORS-sponsored visit to their egg-layer farm in Baqa'a, their dairy farm in Dhuleil, and the Arab Fish Farm in the Jordan Valley.

JESORS' egg-layer farm

The egg-layer farm in Baqa'a, built by JESORS in 1976 at a cost of JD 600,000, is the first controlled environment layer farm in Jordan. Managed by agricultural engineer Kamal Haddad and administrative manager Ahmad Attiyeh, the farm's ten workers and 62,000 layer chickens turn out 14 million eggs per year.

Four modern, self-contained, soccer field-sized buildings house the 62,000 layers and 25,000 growing chickens. Since layer chickens maintain high rates of egg production for about one year, JESORS replaces one third of its flock every four months in order to maximise output. Food and water flow in, eggs and manure flow out, and nothing is wasted. The manure is sold as fertiliser to citrus farmers in the Jordan Valley and brings JD 800 per month.

JESORS has achieved a 20 per cent reduction in feed costs for the farm by grinding its own concentrates, which include a minimum of maize, a maximum of barley, and Jophos, a by-product of the phosphate extraction process. The addition of Jophos to the chicken feed produces a harder shell which has reduced breakage of eggs during packing and transportation to less than one per cent.

Most of the eggs produced on the farm are sold to the army on a tender basis, but a substantial number are also exported to Iraq, and the farm brings in profits of JD 40-50,000 each year. Modern and efficiently operated, JESORS' egg-layer farm is a model of rationalised production. As one last example of this, Mr. Rubi noted that an "open house" farm would require three times the area of the controlled environment system.

The Dhuleil dairy farm

JESORS dairy farm in Dhuleil is even more impressive. Built in 1977 at a cost of JD 500,000, the farm houses 600 cows and is run by manager Mustafa Ramahi and 28 workers, all of whom live on the farm. The farm's 315 Holstein-Friesian milking cows

produce almost four tonnes of milk per day, which is sold to the Jordan Dairy Company and to a local co-operative.

What distinguishes JESORS' dairy farm, however, is its achievement of very high yields while at the same time utilising low-cost non-traditional feedstuffs. JESORS cows yield about 5,200 kilograms of milk annually, much higher than the national average of 3,500 and comparable to yields in Britain (4,800) and Germany (5,200). According to Mr. Rubi, JESORS achieves these high yields by careful attention to the diet of each individual cow, and by replacing 20 per cent of the herd annually. Every cow is sold after the fifth lactation (milking cycle), while other farmers keep their animals until the ninth or tenth lactation, in spite of reduced production levels.

JESORS' careful attention to the diet of its cows hasn't stopped it from working something of a revolution in feeding practices. Mr. Rubi describes this new approach: "We are using a concentrate which is consisting mostly of uncommon, non-traditional feedstuffs. We are trying to use most of the by-products of the brewery and the by-products of the factories."

JESORS also buys old bread and vegetables which cannot be sold profitably on the market. "So our cattle are eating actually vegetables, fruits, apples and oranges, and all these things, including potatoes. Just last year we fed over 1,900 metric tonnes of vegetables and vegetable wastes to these animals."

By using these non-traditional feedstuffs, JESORS has reduced the costs of its food concentrates from JD 82 per tonne to JD 40 per tonne. And JESORS passes the results of its innovations along to other area farmers, both by selling them JESORS concentrates and by telling them how to grind their own concentrates.

This doesn't always work to JESORS' advantage. For example, bales of straw grown as part of the normal crop rotation used to rot in the fields of the Jordan Valley, so JESORS obtained some of this straw free of charge and fed it to the cows on their dairy farm. Mr. Rubi related that people began to say "Look, Rubi is feeding the cows straw and they are not dying," and subsequently follow JESORS' example. As a result, the straw that used to be free now costs JESORS 500-700 fils per bale.

This may be the price of success, but success has its rewards, too, and at JESORS' dairy farm the rewards are JD 60,000 in profits each year.

The Arab Fish Company

The Arab Fish Company is a joint venture financed by the Pen-

sion Fund and Social Security and now run by JESORS. Nestled on the banks of the Jordan River are 36 nine-metre tanks, 16 six-metre tanks, and 42 indoor two-metre tanks designed to produce 200 tonnes of fresh fish per year. Begun in 1983 by a Swedish company and with start-up costs of JD 550,000, it was the first fish farm in Jordan. The Swedish company, abandoned the project after seven months of trying to develop a successful breed, and JESORS took over the farm's operations eight months ago. JESORS succeeded in developing a breed of tilapia (red snapper) suited to Jordanian conditions and is now both producing fresh fish for the market and exporting parent stock.

Here too, JESORS achieved a drastic reduction in feed costs by mixing its own concentrates. Imported feed costs JD 320 per tonne, and JESORS produces its own for JD 120 per tonne.

The fish farm is still experiencing what manager Steve Hull called "teething problems," but these are gradually being overcome. The farm currently produces about five tonnes a month of fresh fish, or just 60 tonnes per year, far less than its 200 tonne per year capacity. And there are difficulties marketing the fish, despite the obvious opening in a market that currently offers only imported dried, frozen, or canned fish. JESORS' fish is three times as expensive as the popular imported Omani fish. Mr. Rubi indicated that the price would come down as production increases, and this should improve marketability.

As for increasing production, Steve Hull said, "It's a constant question of reorganising your brood stock all the time to maximise production." He also indicated that this can be achieved only through experience.

The development of a successful parent stock is in itself a notable breakthrough, and JESORS has already begun to capitalise on it by selling parent stock to Cyprus and beginning negotiations with Greece and Kenya to provide parent stock.

Perhaps more importantly, others are beginning to follow JESORS' example. Four smaller fish farms are under construction in the Jordan Valley, and JESORS will supply these new farms with fry (baby fish) and feed.

In this, as in other projects, JESORS has utilised local conditions and resources to both improve existing operations and experiment with new avenues of economic development. With success under their belts, they are well prepared to apply their combination of management and the military spirit to more ambitious projects.

Next, JESORS' plans for a dairy processing plant, a chicken processing factory, and the giant Hamman Basin agricultural project.

Red Crescent delegation to tour Arab states next year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) recently took part in meeting of the development committee set up by the Arab Red Crescent Societies Federation in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The JNRCS was represented by Dr. Muwaffaq Al Fawwaz Al Zou'bi, who said that the meeting appointed a delegation to tour Arab countries and explain the federation's activities and objectives, and discussed setting up a special development fund.

He said that the delegation, which will also request support and financial contributions from Arab countries for the fund will go to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates in January and will visit Algeria, Libya and Morocco in February 1986.

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GONDOLA HOUSE

By Franz Schurmann

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Uncle Sam grapples with own moods

SAN FRANCISCO — It is clear to those of us who know the American media world that a major change in mood has taken place regarding the Middle East. This is particularly evident in the New York Times. The mood is one of growing optimism that the PLO is crumbling and that the U.S. should make every effort now to destroy it utterly.

The mood is so strong that most readers have little idea of alternate opinions. We read of Jordanian reactions, for example, only that which seems to fit the new U.S. media mood. We read little of Saudi or Iraqi reaction. There have been no interviews with Yasser Arafat. And no "man in the street" interviews with ordinary Palestinians.

Of course, we read about the splits within the Israeli government about the peace proposals made by Prime Minister

Peres. But even that does not destroy the mood. There is so much wishing in the mood, as with a small child who wants a gift so badly he does not care what the reality is, so long as he gets his present.

What great gift does Uncle Sam want? Uncle Sam wants the Palestinians to disappear and the Palestinian issue to vanish. If that happens, Uncle Sam can worry about the bigger issues. The recent events seemed to Uncle Sam like a golden opportunity. First the Palestinians were blasted by Amal artillery in Lebanon. Then Israeli planes destroyed the PLO headquarters in Tunis. And then the Italian liner was hijacked and an American passenger was killed. Even if the third incident had been planned in some extremist intelligence agency, it could not have worked out bet-

ter for Uncle Sam's wishes. The PLO has been shown to be an organization made up of many factions. It still engages in terrorism, and it does not have the political ability to take part in serious negotiations.

But if Washington hopes the Palestinians will disappear, my own eyes even here in distant San Francisco tell me that the Palestinians are a strong and growing force. I live in a neighborhood which is now largely Asian. But in the last few years, Palestinians have started to come in. And one begins to see Arabic writing popping up here and there. Arabic writing is an invitation to thugs to throw rocks through the windows. One Arab printing shop which prominently displays a sign in Arabic has had its windows repeatedly broken. Yet the Palestinian presence grows. The Palestinians are

like the Chinese: proud, intelligent, and strong in their own cultural identities.

The Palestinians will not vanish, not in Palestine and not in the many communities they have established all over the world. My Jewish friends have often said that the Palestinians remind them of Jews in earlier years. And that for good reason: Palestinians and Jews are descended from the same or related peoples who have lived in the lands of Palestine since biblical times. It is probably equally correct to call Jesus both a Jew and a Palestinian.

Palestinians are a small minority in the U.S. But they are part of an Arab and an Islamic world which is just now beginning to rise up. The new American mood on the Middle East prefers to ignore this entirely. Islam is dismissed as a bunch of extremists at worst

and a super-conservative religion at best. The newspapers now gloat that the world is less dependent on Middle Eastern oil. And so the U.S. can afford to abandon the Middle East to itself, except, of course, for Israel.

And we must not forget the other new mood which reflects the sense of a warming relationship with the Soviet Union. If the Soviets are no longer so much of a threat in the Middle East, then why worry so much about the Arab countries or what the Arabs are doing?

If the new accords in Lebanon hold, then Washington can feel happy that its friendly policy towards Damascus has had positive results. And Damascus has good relations with Moscow. And if relations between Syria and its other Arab neighbors improve even

more, then that is even better. Why not totally forget the Palestinians and the PLO? Moscow certainly could not care less what happens to the Palestinians! It has its own worries in Afghanistan and Poland.

There are people in the U.S. government who still are convinced that the U.S. must come to terms with the Arabs and Islamic worlds as the U.S. earlier did with China. Those voices are not heard now. But they remain there. And when the shortsightedness of the current mood and the policies that spring from them becomes apparent, then maybe those voices will be heard again.

But for the moment, the current U.S. media mood which is widely shared in U.S. political circles is that the time has come finally to destroy the PLO and let the Palestinians vanish into obscurity.

Confused politics

SO CONFUSED is the Middle East political landscape that it takes a super human effort for anyone to make some sense out of it.

A bunch of terrorists, presumably Arab, hijack an Egyptian aircraft to Malta. Other than trying to embarrass President Hosni Mubarak and his government and to make a mockery of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's "Cairo Declaration," there can be no reason for such shameless act of naked terrorism.

In the U.S., Israel is caught red-handed trying to spy on the Americans. As if the two countries are not the closest of allies and friends, and do not share their intelligence work on day-to-day basis, the Israelis recruit an American national to pass on navy secrets to them.

In Baghdad, the PLO leaders are biding their time. They want to know what happened at the Geneva summit. While Mr. Richard Murphy is in India and Pakistan to tell these two countries' leaders something of what Messrs Reagan and Gorbachev thought of them. Let India and Pakistan be the Middle East; let Palestine and the Arab World be the sub-continent. Everything goes in America.

In Rabat at the same time, King Hassan says he is willing to meet Shimon Peres if the latter has something concrete to offer. The second day, however, the Moroccan King rules out direct contacts with the Israeli prime minister and tells him to send an envelope to the secretary general of the U.N. should he have any concrete proposal.

Meanwhile, Peres and the other Israeli leaders seem to discover that only high school students listen to their messages and speeches. Yitzhak Shamir briefs those kids on what he thinks of the Geneva summit. Fazer Weizman shares with them his feelings on the Palestinians, and Peres sends through them his replies to Arab peace feelers and other statements from world leaders.

Well, if this is not a confused picture of the Middle East political landscape, what is?

But, alas, confusion is not the biggest of our problems. Despair is. Each time something new happens, whether negative or positive, we think or hope it is going to change things for the better. That never seems to happen, and we invariably end up taking a step backward.

Until when this dangerous state of affairs will continue and how the vicious cycle will be broken, nobody knows. The fact remains that there is no solution in sight and we have to face it.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Mutual cooperation

THE Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee opened meetings in Cairo Tuesday to discuss cooperation between the two countries in a number of economic and trade fields. But of course the two sides to the meeting will also take up the political situation and current efforts to build solidarity among Arab states and to find a just and durable Middle East peace settlement. The joint committee has succeeded thus far in paving the ground for mutual cooperation and fruitful results. Through this committee the two countries have succeeded in launching joint projects and promoted trade links between the peoples of both countries. Jordan has forged similar cooperation through similar joint committees with Iraq and Syria and has achieved a great measure of success in this respect. Economic and trade links should be separated from politics and should include not only these four countries, but all other Arab states as well. Cooperation should continue and expand until total economic integration is achieved among the Arab states. Once the Arabs are strong economically and politically, they find it easy to forge a united force enabling them to confront their common enemies.

Sawt Al Shaab: Open all channels

THE current meetings in Cairo of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee represent Jordan's serious efforts to build a strong foundation for inter-Arab cooperation. This is needed to bolster Arab economy and enable the nations to face challenges and common threats. Economic cooperation between the Arabs should not remain under the mercy of inter-Arab political wrangling and disputes. Economic affairs are directly related to the life and stability of the Arab people, and therefore should be separated from political issues that have so far thwarted joint Arab action. Jordan's policy is based on the concept of keeping all channels of communications and contacts open with all the Arab states with the purpose of offering them the chance to cooperate with Jordan for the common good. Jordan based its cooperation with others on the concept of mutual respect and mutual benefits and thus has been able to build bridges of understanding with all Arabs with the purpose of reestablishing solidarity among the Arab countries. The meetings in Cairo form another step towards this solidarity.

Al Dustour: Welcoming Arab cooperation

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifa'i talks with his Egyptian counterpart in Cairo represent another stage on the road towards enhancing bilateral cooperation in economic and trade affairs. This cooperation reflects the bright side of the Arab image and bodes well for the future of the Arab nation. Since the restoration of relations between Cairo and Amman the two countries have been progressively increasing their contact and moving together towards solidarity, which is bound to benefit not only themselves but the whole Arab nation as well. The Egyptian-Jordanian relations have been marked with a great degree of clarity and candor and also brotherly characteristics that should prevail among all Arab countries. Both Jordan and Egypt together form a link between the Asian and African sides of the Arab World and therefore they can serve as a link between them, facilitating the flow of trade and travel between the two sides. Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in agriculture, trade, tourism and economic affairs are therefore bound to enhance solidarity among Arab countries at large. We sincerely welcome cooperation and hope the joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee all success in its drive to promote it in various fields.

Military balance: shifts to Sandinistas

The Sandinistas are still firmly in control in Nicaragua. But the U.S.-backed guerrillas, or Contras, are giving them a run for their money. Tim Coome explains why there will be no quick end to hostilities.

MANAGUA — A monument covered in flowers stands today in a field on the outskirts of Pantasma where two years ago the bodies of 46 *campesinos*, peasant farmers, were covered in lime and placed in makeshift graves next to the ashes of their wooden homes.

They had been members of a Sandinista farming cooperative in the northern Nicaraguan department of Jinotega. They were massacred when a large column of U.S.-backed guerrillas, or Contras, attacked in force.

It has become a memorable action both for the Contras and for the Sandinistas: For the Contras because it was their most devastating attack which galvanised the government into realising it had a serious problem in the country's mountain region.

Pantasma is still in the heart of the warzones in Nicaragua, but the incident of October 1983 is unlikely to be repeated.

A battalion of troops specialising in guerrilla warfare is now stationed permanently in the Pantasma valley, and patrols are constantly in the surrounding hills supported by heavy artillery and air power.

The state farm of Castillo Norte, 10 km away, which was razed by the Contras in May 1984, is still abandoned, but the coffee crop will be picked under military protection this year. Another cooperative at nearby El Ventarron was also abandoned and the members have moved closer to the Pantasma valley and the security of the main road from Jinotega.

At two other sites in the valley, the corrugated tin roofs of another 200 new houses glint in the sunlight between downpours of seasonal rain, where families which have been pulled out of the mountains are to be relocated.

In military terms, it is hard to dispute that the Sandinistas are winning against the guerrillas. In the Jalapa valley, close to the Honduran frontier and the main bases of the Contras, people travelled in constant fear of ambushes two years ago, but there has barely been an incident for a year. The "strategic defeat" talked of by the Sandinista leaders is a fact.

Commander Xavier Carrion, the head of operations of the Nicaraguan armed forces, at his headquarters in the northern coffee town of Matagalpa, said that although the war could go on for several years, the guerrillas were now losing on the political, material and human fronts, the three parameters by which the army assesses the strength of its adversaries.

Politically, the Sandinistas have regained ground in the isolated mountain regions they had earlier ceded to the Contras, both through a counter-insurgency strategy involving relocation of peasant families that had been supporting the guerrillas, and through greater attention being given to the needs of the peasant communities.

Controls on grain sales have been eased and supplies at controlled prices of basic items such as handtools, rubber boots and clothing have been greatly improved in the warzones. The agrarian reform, which until last year concentrated only on distributing land to formerly landless peasants, now focuses primarily on increasing the land owned by the small individual farmer.

Commander Carrion admitted that earlier government policies had allowed the development of a social base for the Contras. "We abandoned some areas, but we are not going to make the same mistakes again."

Militarily, the use of more and better-trained troops, their con-

stant patrolling of disputed territory, the introduction of the awesome MI-24 Soviet-made helicopter gunship, and better transport and battlefield communications have served to shift the military balance decisively to the government's favour. A stronger military presence has brought a stronger political presence and allowed social programmes to be restarted.

According to Commander Carrion, troop losses are running at a ratio of four or five to one in the government's favour. In October, 140 guerrillas had been killed for the loss of 31 government troops.

"They are unable to maintain numbers either through forced or voluntary recruiting," he estimates that there are now only some 3,000 guerrillas inside the country, with another 5,000 outside, mostly in Honduras, waiting for an opportunity to launch another offensive.

"It is possible that they might still be able to concentrate their forces for a major attack, but it will now be to our advantage. We are waiting for them."

The last big attack in early August on the town of La Trinidad which straddles the Pan-American highway cost the guerrillas one third of their 600-strong force.

It appears the Contras are now forced to operate in much smaller units of 10 to 20 troops and are avoiding contact with army units. The militias of the cooperatives and state farms, once the principal targets of the Contras in 1983 and 1984, are now able to hold their own until reinforcements arrive.

"The Contras' plan to liberate territory, declare a provisional government and call for international recognition and support has been defeated," said Commander Carrion. "They no longer have any greater military perspective, and that is the strategic defeat we talk about. The only military option they have left is a long war of attrition."

That appears to be the future perspective of this already four-year-old war. The quick victory promised by the Contra leaders in 1983 and 1984 is no longer talked about. The guerrillas face demoralisation and heavy losses which only dedicated political commitment in the rank and file can overcome to be able to carry out a prolonged war.

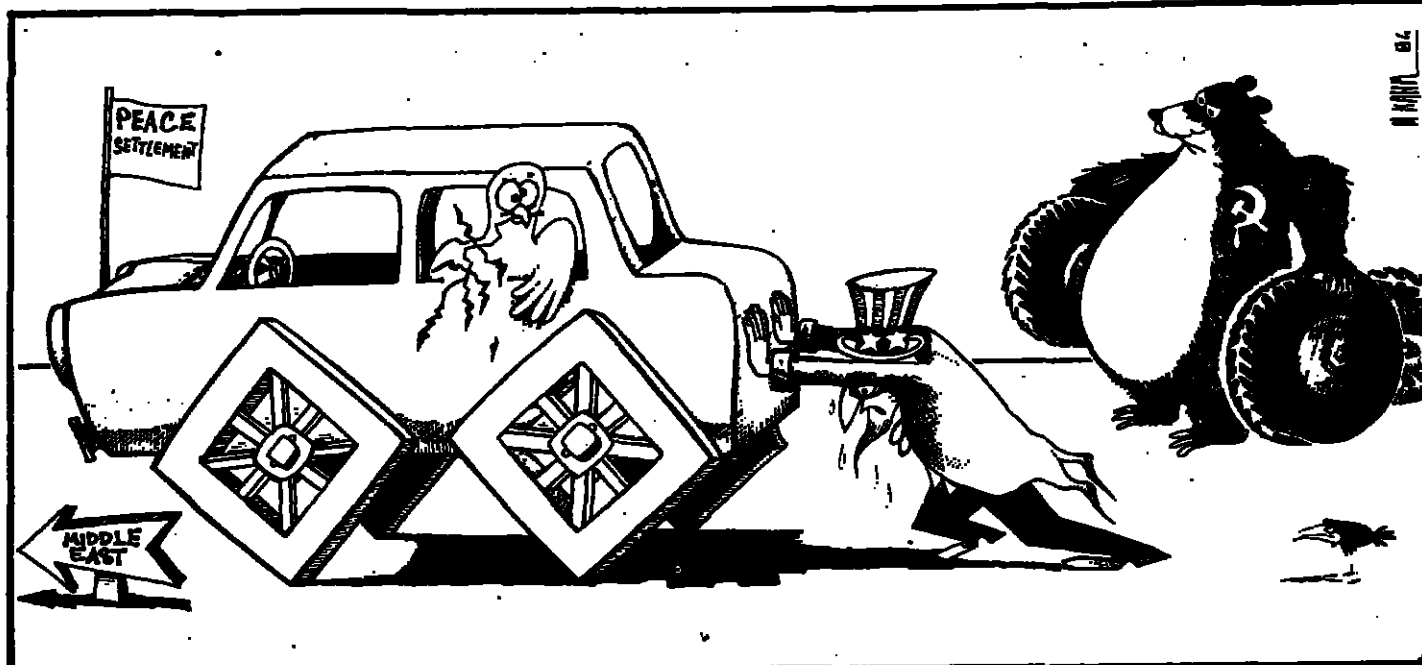
Commitment such as this is clearly not a strongpoint of the Contras. U.S. funds will continue to sustain the war, but even the introduction of heat-seeking missiles against the government's new helicopters has so far been unsuccessful.

Military victory is in sight for the Sandinistas, but Commander Carrion recognises "it has been at a huge social and economic cost." Even the peasant relocation programme started last February has been cut in half due to a lack of resources. 3,500 hectares of coffee plantations have been abandoned in the warzones and basic grain and cattle production has been seriously affected.

More than half the government budget is dedicated to defence and is bleeding the economy. Important advances in health and education in the early years of the revolution are being lost as ministry budgets are slashed and investments halted. Commander Carrion expects the economy will not start to pick up again until 1987.

Until then, falling living standards will sharpen discontent in the cities, and the Sandinistas face the prospect of their main battlefield shifting from the military front to the economic one.

— Financial Times news feature.



Yugoslavia and 3rd World development

By Milla Gligoric

IN the complex economic and political situation which gravely hampers economic and social development in the world, especially in developing countries, and has frequently led to "eruptions" of fury and revolt amongst the developed countries and to political upheavals in developing countries, every attempt to find a solution to the crisis or to disseminate international cooperation is encouraging.

Because of the decrease in all forms of global cooperation, which particularly hits developing countries, the Yugoslav approach to this question serves as an encouraging example whose effect is of multiple importance both for Yugoslavia itself and for developing countries.

Yugoslavia's economic cooperation with abroad, particularly with developing countries, dates from the very beginning of the existence of new Yugoslavia, even though it was itself bearing the heavy burden of the four-year People's Liberation Struggle and the Socialist Revolution and an inherited underdeveloped economy. This cooperation has over the past 40 years constantly developed and expanded, parallel to the appearance of young, newly-liberated countries on the geopolitical map of the world.

While Yugoslavia's economic relations were oriented towards commercial and economic cooperation with developed countries, Yugoslavia first of all offered developing countries assistance in the training of personnel and in the transfer of technology. In the period from 1950 to 1980, Yugoslavia sent 7,000 of its experts to those countries on the request of their governments. During that same period, some 6,000 foreign citizens graduated from high schools and universities in Yugoslavia. Many of these former students today hold high functions in the governments and commercial institutions of their countries. Yugoslavia annually provides scholarships for over 1,200 students from developing countries, while over 3,000 foreign students have decided to acquire university education in Yugoslavia at their own cost.

The training of armies of young experts who will transmit in their countries not only the knowledge acquired in Yugoslavia but will also continue to foster friendly links with the country which offered them a knowledge and hospitality, is a special form of investment which has huge importance from a social and political aspect both for Yugoslavia and its partners.

From the very beginning of Yugoslavia's capital cooperation with abroad, it has attached its greatest attention to cooperation with developing countries. The extent of the rapid development of

capital and other cooperation is shown by the fact that even five years ago Yugoslavia had agreements of cooperation with over 70 developing countries. In its capital programmes, Yugoslavia has also become specialised to carry out the most complex contracts on industrial, power supply, accommodation, transport, municipal and other plant. The value of capital works and planning services carried out abroad by Yugoslav work organisations is up to some \$300 million annually.

The importance of the projects for the host countries is demonstrated by the gigantic hydro electric power stations in Peru, the supply of drinking water and the construction of a complete sewerage and water supply system for the Algerian capital, the transformation of desert land into fertile land in Libya, the construction of hotel chains, roads and other major economic facilities throughout the world. The old Yugoslav saying that a good

reputation is heard far afield can serve as an illustration of the work of Yugoslav enterprises abroad and the prospects for the continued expansion of contracts thanks to the excellent renown gained. This is demonstrated by the fact that in 1980 the total value of services carried out by Yugoslav enterprises abroad had increased by 2.5 times.

Yugoslavia's long term commitment lies in more dynamic and varied cooperation in all spheres of economic relations with abroad. Through the new strategy of trade, industrial, technical, financial and scientific cooperation with abroad for the period from 1990 to the year 2000, the growth of Yugoslav commodity and service exports is foreseen at the average rate of 15 per cent a year. At the same time, however, it is planned that the import of services and commodities from developing countries will up to the year 2000 account for up to 21 per cent of total Yugoslav imports.

Continuing to foster friendly relations in line with its foreign policy orientation, according to the principles of nonalignment and peaceful coexistence with all countries, Yugoslavia also cooperates with developed countries in the realisation of major commercial facilities. There are excellent examples of cooperation in the construction of the gas pipe line in the Soviet Union, residential and other facilities in Czechoslovakia, joint power facilities with neighbouring Romania... the Yugoslav textile and automobile industries have won a place for their products on such discerning markets as the U.S.A., Federal Republic of Germany, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia etc.

In this way too socialist Yugoslavia endeavours to contribute to narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor for the good of its own and friendly peoples and for the preservation of peace in the world — Tanjug, Yugoslav News Agency.

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مكتبة الأرحام

Sabah: Democracy is the only right way to put matters on the right path

The following interview with Kuwait's Information Minister, Sheikh Nasser Al Sabah, appeared in the last issue of *The VOICE of the Arab World* magazine:

J: Friendship and close ties between Britain and Kuwait are something you encourage. As Minister of Information how do you think these ties could best be improved?

A: Relations between Kuwait and the UK are not new and they do not lack strength. Relations between our country and Britain are based on historical links, and we hope they shall continue and retain their strength and depth. However, we in Kuwait hope that the British Government will have a more objective attitude toward Arab issues, especially the Palestinian cause. Britain is to a great extent historically and morally responsible for the sufferings of the Palestinian people. In the Arab world, we believe that Britain can play an important role in obtaining justice for this homeless people. We hope that Britain will play a more important and more objective role in cooperation with the European Community in this respect.

J: What of improving friendship and ties between the United States and Kuwait? From your experience at the United Nations and since how could these be improved? What are your feelings about current American attitudes?

A: I am sorry that the USA does not deal with Arab issues in the manner which should be dictated by its position as a big, if not the biggest, power in the world, and on the basis of American vital interests in the area. Though we do occasionally understand the reasons behind the pro-Israeli attitudes of the American administration, especially when the matter is connected with the pressures practised by the Zionist lobby in Congress and other government institutions; we can't accept American attitudes which are bound to foster policy based on aggression and expansion, and to supply the aggressors with all means of support and backing, thus encouraging the continuation of this aggressive attitude.

In Kuwait and the Arab World in general, we hope that the USA will listen to the voice of justice

and right and apply a realistic and objective policy towards Arab problems. We are sure that the USA does have the ability to do much in order to put an end to the destructive five-year war in the Gulf.

J: What could the Arabs best do in your opinion to improve the outlook of press and public opinion towards the Arabs in the United States?

A: I feel grieved when I say that the international media in general and the American and European media in particular, especially when the Zionist effects on such media are taken into account, do not give the Arabs and their problems an objective view free of subjective factors and emotions. When the matter is connected with Arabs such media do not bind themselves to what is expected from them on the international level. They are not objective towards problems under discussion. Arabs are targeted by the foreign media for many reasons. It might be just to point out that Arabs themselves are to be partially blamed for this failure. That is due in part to their failure in the field of media or for not applying the appropriate information policy capable of addressing the targeted foreigners and impress them. But it remains true that Arabs are subjected to disgraceful media campaigns motivated by Zionists.

J: Kuwaiti students abroad, whether in Britain, America or elsewhere, are in many ways key representatives of the best of Kuwaiti youth. Could you give your views on how these students could in themselves become 'bridge-builders' of understanding to help to better relationships between Kuwait and the United States, or on the other hand between Kuwait and Britain?

A: Kuwaiti students, and other Arab individuals in foreign countries, are supposed to be ambassadors for their country and for the Arab world. In the eyes of others, they represent the cultural and social standards of their country. Hence, any odd behaviour may reflect on the image of the

Arab World in foreign countries.

We hope every Arab individual will be an efficient and successful ambassador for his country and for the Arab World at large.

The students bear most of the burden of responsibility in this regard; for every student spends a number of years abroad, and makes contact with several people. Moreover, the students lead a common life with the future leading figures in the foreign countries concerned.

J: Because of your diplomatic experience, both at the United Nations and in Iran, what do you feel about the role of media in achieving understanding between countries like Iran and Iraq, together with Kuwait and her neighbours? How can we achieve the aims of conciliation in the years that lie ahead?

A: Mass media can play a major role in pacifying matters. Without the propaganda campaigns and the counter-propaganda campaigns things could have been better now. In fact, we wish the two countries could avoid the use of propaganda campaigns that nurture feelings of hatred against each other.

You may have observed that the Arab Gulf countries, in spite of their commitment toward national and fraternal solidarity and their faith in a peaceful and just settlement to the conflict, adopt a cautious mass media policy with the aim of conciliation whenever possible.

It must be recalled here, however, that Iraq has repeatedly declared its peaceful intentions through the many goodwill initiatives, and we hope that Iran will respond to these gestures and eventually realise that fighting and the continued destruction approach is of great benefit only to both countries' common enemy who is laughing in his sleeve at what is happening in this region. We also hope the two superpowers will make every effort possible and seriously try to put an end to this terrible tragedy which threatens this strategic area of the world.

Would you as a Cabinet Minister give your frank views on the progress of the new Parliament? This democratic move has attracted wide interest in the

West.

A: In my capacity as one of the leading mass media figures in this country, I would like to confirm that we in Kuwait feel great pride in our democratic march achievements. The debates and dialogues in our National Assembly among deputies and ministers are considered a normal and honourable phenomenon which, in its turn, reflects the State endeavour that the executive body exercise its national task in full cooperation with the legislative body in the National Assembly.

When Kuwait decided to start its democratic march it was completely aware that the democratic approach was the only right way to put the matter on the right path.

Kuwait believed that the participation of our people in shouldering the responsibility for decisions was the only guarantee for running the affairs of this country.

Frankly speaking, the latest developments in the National Assembly clearly reflect Government commitments towards Parliamentary democracy as an approach towards freedom of speech and expression.

Could you give your views on the need to make the Arab cause in the field of petroleum? What do you feel regarding PIC (Petroleum Information Committee) achievements? How vital is it to correct the world picture on petroleum matters?

A: The activity of the Petroleum Information Committee of the Arab Gulf countries is considered an integral part of the media activities of these countries, explaining the Arab point of view on energy problems, at a time when Western media started to put the blame on the Arab petroleum producing countries for the economic problems facing the world.

In fact Arabs are called upon to conduct their efforts so as to change the impression embedded in foreigners' minds due to prejudiced publicity campaigns motivated behind the scenes by Zionism. These campaigns show the Arabs as controlling the whole world economy through their oil wealth. Activities of the Petroleum Information Committee



Sheikh Nasser Al Sabah

since its organisation in 1979 and diverse, such as dispatching Arab delegates and experts to foreign countries to give lectures, share in Radio Programmes and appear on TV discussions and in press interviews concerning energy affairs, or arranging for International Symposia. Foreign delegations have also been invited to visit the Arab Gulf States to see for themselves how oil revenues affect the way of life of the peoples of the region and what are the changes and results.

Other activities of the Committee are the publishing of various books and publications and their distribution among different information academies and establishments all over the world and also producing publicity and documentary films to be shown abroad.

It is worth mentioning that the activities of the Committee last year included the organising of three Symposia: in Durham, University, England; in McMaster University, Canada; and with the Japan Cooperation Centre for the Middle East, Tokyo, respectively. In addition, there is the publishing programme which included the publishing of three books, and the visits programme according to which some Arab experts paid visits to several foreign countries and lectured in their universities, and also shared in debates held there.

As for the Committee's plan for this year, it is possible to say that the Committee is hoping to carry out a number of information programmes that will include a programme for lecturing, another for symposia so as to cover those countries which were not included before such as Brazil, South Korea and Spain, in addition to the publishing programme that includes the issuing of eight books.

Highest ranked manmade chess master boasts big byte

By Bob Dvorchak
The Associated Press

PITTSBURG — While two Soviet chess masters struggled through 72 games over 14 months for the world championship, a super chess computer was earning in five months the highest rating ever given a machine.

The electronic chess whiz, called Hitech, can analyse 175,000 moves per second, which its creators say is 50 per cent faster than any other chess-playing machine. It beats other computers and holds its own against humans.

"Hitech is the highest rated computer we ever had," said David Gentler of the U.S. Chess Federation and assistant editor of Chess Life magazine.

"It's both smart and fast. It's very, very strong in tactics and the ability to calculate sequences," said Dr. Hans Berliner, a computer science professor at Carnegie-Mellon University who helped create Hitech.

"What sets it apart from other computers is we're able to eval-

uate a position with a high degree of sophistication very, very quickly," said Berliner. "I think we have a real chance to penetrate the very top levels. We'll be in the top 50 players in the country by the end of next year."

Hitech, three years in the making, won the first tournament it played May 25. By mid-October its record was 19-3-3. Berliner said the defeats came when it was new to competition.

As Garry Kasparov defeated Anatoly Karpov earlier this month in Moscow for the world chess title, Hitech was whipping two human masters at a local tournament and drawing a third game. It established its supremacy over all other machines by winning the North American Computer Chess Championship in Denver.

The victories earned Hitech the rank of master, based on a numerical formula that weighs won, lost records and the level of competition. Hitech's ranking is about 2,250. The best human is near 2,800.

A computer named Belle was

the first machine to earn the master's rank in 1983, but it has since slipped to expert. Of 30,902 players rated by the U.S. Chess Federation, only 766 are masters and Hitech is the lone machine.

Berliner, himself a chess master, was once one of the nation's top 12 players and won the World Correspondence Chess Championship in 1968.

He sensed Hitech was destined for greatness when it tied him recently.

"I took advantage of some things and got off to a good start. But according to it, I missed a chance to win. If you ask it, it will tell you what you should do," said Berliner.

"I don't think I'm going to be playing it much anymore. If it's not better than me now, it will be in half a year," he said.

Researchers are continually refining its programme, he said.

Berliner, 56 developed his first chess programme while working for International Business Machines Corp. He left IBM 16 years ago to get his doctorate in computer science and stayed at university to continue work on the marriage of artificial intelligence and chess.

Rifai returns from Cairo after concluding accords

(Continued from page 1)

— to allow the Jordanian Trade Centre in Cairo to sell commodities directly to the private and public sectors in Egypt within the framework of the agreed-on quota and to make similar arrangements for the Egyptian centre in Amman.

— to speed up the issuance of letters of credit to cover the purchase of goods agreed-on earlier in accordance with the seventh and eighth protocols.

— to convene the joint ministerial committee on trade exchange in Amman to sign the ninth trade protocol before the end of this year.

— to exempt the Jordanian Trade Centre in Cairo and the Egyptian Trade Centre in Amman from income tax.

— to take speedy measures to clear national products from Jordan and Egypt through customs, and health control, especially those at the Aqaba and Nuweibeh sea terminals, and the ferry boats carrying the goods to both countries.

— to sign an agreement for establishing a holding company to be known by the name of the Jordanian-Egyptian Company for Investment and Development to be based in Amman before the end of the year.

— to exempt this joint company and its branches and offices in

Jordan and Egypt from registration fees and stamps.

The two sides agreed that a six-member committee will hold a meeting in Cairo on Dec. 3 to conduct a feasibility study and lay down a statute for establishing a fisheries company as a branch of the holding company.

— to speed up the implementation of a deal for the sales to Egypt of one million tonnes of Jordanian cement in accordance with an accord signed by the ministers of transport in both countries.

— to maintain accounts at the Cairo Bank in Cairo and the Cairo Amman Bank in Amman.

In agriculture, both sides agreed to provide each other with a list of trainers and trainees on various agricultural programmes.

In land, sea and air transport, both sides reviewed the traffic operations through the land-sea ferryboat service between the two countries.

Both sides were briefed on a draft agreement signed by the ministers of transport of Iraq, Jordan and Egypt for establishing a joint company for the transportation of goods and passengers. The company will have a capital of \$6 million and will be called the Arab Maritime Bridge Company and will be offered facilities to operate freely between the three countries.

In the field of planning, both sides will exchange expertise and information on development in either countries and agreed that a joint coordination committee convene in January.

In public works, the two sides will study the prospect of establishing a joint contracting company to emanate from the holding company.

In telecommunications, they agreed to carry out a second phase of installing and operating a new network between Aqaba and Nuweibeh.

In cultural and educational fields, the committee decided to hold a meeting in Amman in the first half of January 1986 to sign an executive cultural and scientific programme for 1986-1988.

Egypt also will study the prospect of accepting more Jordanian students in Egyptian higher institutions.

In tourism, the committee agreed to work out a programme for

joint marketing for 1986 and 1987 and to hold a meeting in Amman in January to discuss the procedures. They also agreed to organise joint tourist exhibitions for marketing tourist sites of both countries.

In information, a protocol will be signed in Cairo before the end of this year on cooperation in radio and television transmission.

In the field of labour both sides agreed to exempt the nationals of either country from residence permits.

In supporting the Arab people in the occupied territories, both sides agreed on extending help and support for the Arab inhabitants through a technical committee that would prepare a working paper on marketing West Bank and Gaza products in both countries.

The committee decided to hold its next meeting in Amman in April 1986.

Egypt seeks custody of hijacker

(Continued from page 1)

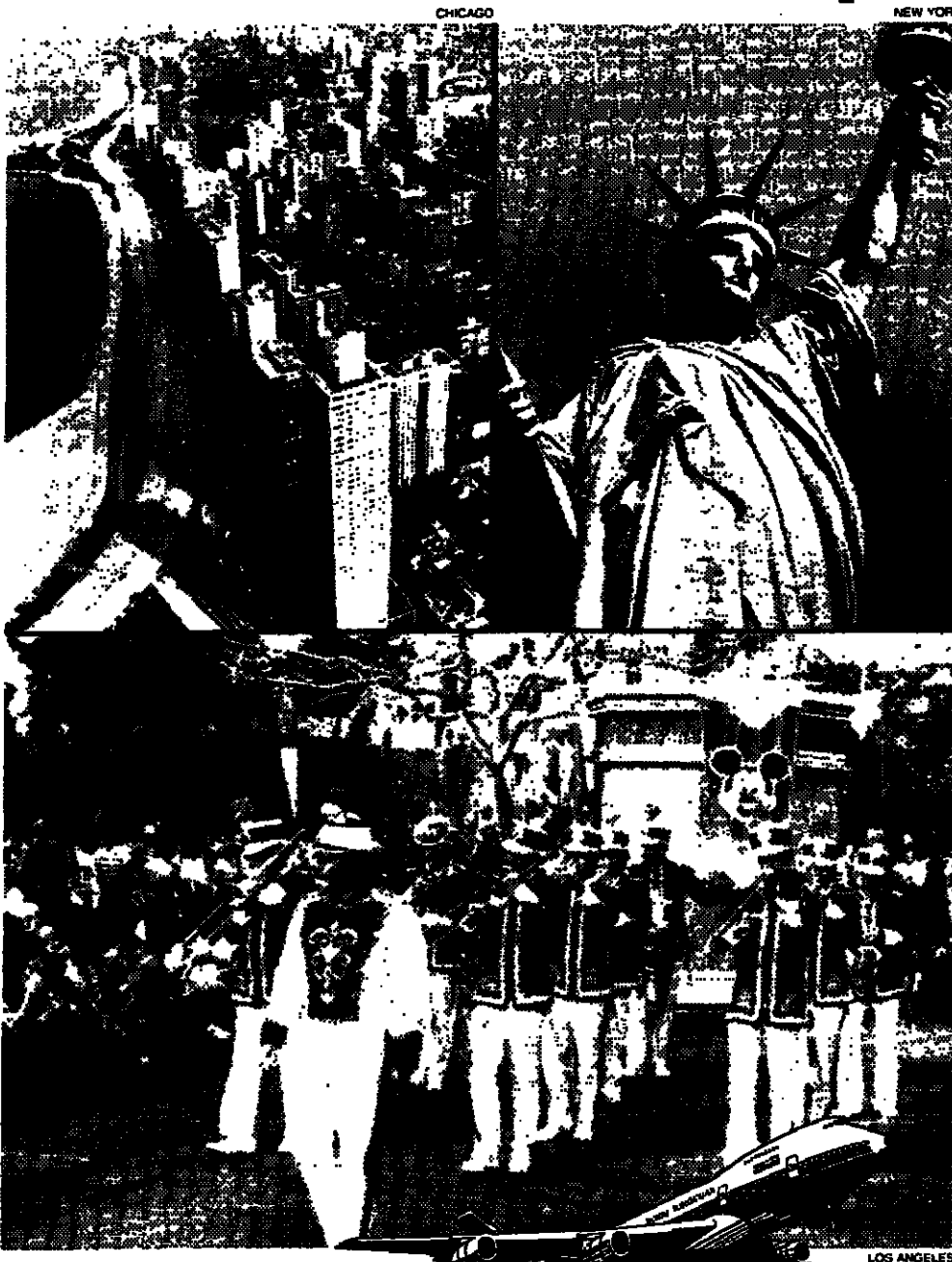
Libya's official news agency JANA on Tuesday criticised American statements of support for Egypt's decision to storm the plane at Malta.

"Aren't these people ashamed to exchange congratulations when they have committed a massacre

against humanity?" said JANA in a commentary received in Beirut.

In Washington, U.S. Vice-President George Bush said Tuesday he had no qualms about Egypt's handling of the affair, but expressed doubt that the bloody assault on the plane would deter future hijackings.

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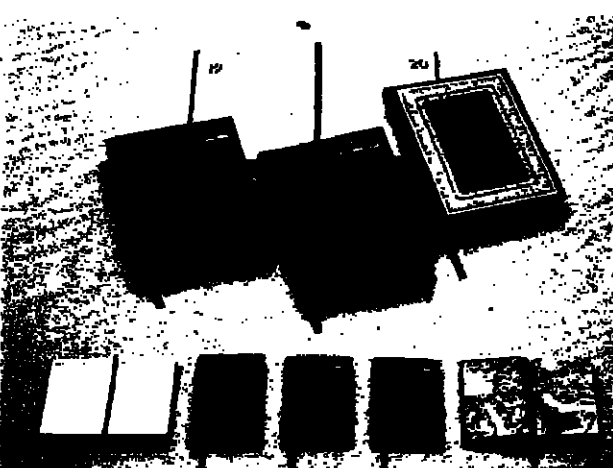
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4685/95	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3770/75	Canadian dollars
	2.5490/5300	West German marks
	2.8995/703	Dutch guilders
	2.0915/25	Swiss francs
	51.57/62	Belgian francs
	7.7675/7725	French francs
	1723/1724	Italian lire
	201.05/15	Japanese yen
	7.6895/945	Swedish crowns
	7.6430/80	Norwegian crowns
	9.2175/2225	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	330.00/330.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market turned mixed after Tuesday's shakeout with selective demand making for a firmer bias, dealers said. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 2.2 up at 1,434.1.

Imperial group advanced 9p to 242p on market speculation that Hanson Trust may turn its attention to the group after the setback to its bid for SCM Corp of the U.S., dealers said. ICI was 3p up at 720 having opened 3p down, while Rank Organisation at 469 and Thorn EMI at 424 were both 10p up. Government bonds were 3/16 lower, gold shares were dull, North Americans gained narrowly.

Unigate ended 4p up at 232 after half-year results while BPB Industries extended Tuesday's gain after interim figures by 10p to 378.

United Biscuits firmed 8p to 266 awaiting bid terms from Imperial group. Dealers noted market speculation of a possible counter bid for United. Distillers advanced 13p to 496 on revived hopes of a bid from the Argyll group and Trafalgar House rose 14p to 397 on institutional support, dealers said. Pearson added 12p to 365 but Hawker fell 6p to 437 and in lower banks Lloyds shed 13p to 489.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOV. 28, 1985
GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a splendid day and evening to go after what you wish with courage and confidence, especially since your mind is working in sensible directions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A good day to see as many key people as possible and get much of worth done cleverly. An ideal time for communicating with others.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have far better ideas now than you have for some time about how best to add to present abundance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Your ingenuity is high and you can put any course into action that interests you, so get right to it.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You like to make a plan before you go after your fondest desires and this is wise, but schedule your time well.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get in touch with fine friends in the morning, and then discuss your personal wishes and they can be of assistance to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get your work done efficiently so that a higher-up may be considering you for a promotion. Go to bed early tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have wanted to expand for some time and this is a good day to make the right contacts and get the ball rolling.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Contact a trusted adviser who can assist you in clearing up problematical affairs and get good results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can reach a meeting of minds with associates if you use patience with them. Be happy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you study your work and are enthused about it, you can impress a bigwig most favorably.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) This can be a banner day for you, both in business and social affairs. Get your finest talents perfected.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study ideas you may have to improve family life, and then put them across without delay. Be active and happy.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be full of energy and intelligence and can meet life bravely. Success starts early here since there is an infectious charm that few can resist, so be sure to give as fine an academic education and your progeny can sail through life almost miraculously.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, NOV. 29, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon confusing or even deceptive conditions may exist in your association with other persons so be sure that you get any agreements exactly correct in your understanding.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get into facts and figures that are pertinent to your interests and reach the right decisions during the day.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Listen with care to what a partner has to say so that there will be no misunderstanding later.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be conscientious in handling your work or you could make some kind of mistake. Later money matters will need your attention.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't get into recreations that you cannot afford and later you find pleasure that is not too expensive.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get rid of that stumbling block in the path of gaining a personal wish in the morning, and then do whatever will please him.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be most careful in handling outside affairs early, and later you can be with good friends and enjoy a hobby together.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may find that a new outlet will have wrinkles in it that should be ironed out. Talk over financial worries with an expert.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Go over your bills carefully before you pay them and then you can be sure of the amounts. Be more gentle with the one you love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A partner may come to you for a favor, but get more information before you agree to anything.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You have to give your full attention to your work during the day, but later you can be with friends and have a fine time together.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Before you make plans for amusement, find out what it will cost. Do your work in such a way that you get approval.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) That home affair should be nicely straightened out before you run for pleasure. You are able to get a co-worker to cooperate today.

EC agrees higher 1986 budget despite objections

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) treasury ministers, overriding objections from Britain and Ireland, early Wednesday agreed a higher budget for 1986, partially restoring cuts in line with the European Parliament's wishes.

After 19 hours of negotiations, the ministers agreed an increase of 821 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$698 million) in an attempt to avert a full-scale financial row with the parliament, largely over cash to finance EC enlargement.

This takes the new budget to 32.7 billion ECUs (\$27.8 billion), officials said.

However, the increase still falls considerably short of some two billion ECUs (\$1.7 billion) cut by ministers from the original budget proposed by the Brussels executive commission, but later reinserted by parliamentarians.

Attempts to reimpose the disputed cuts in full would have led to fresh institutional conflict. The parliament is likely to give its verdict on the new budget later.

However, Spain and Portugal, which join the EC on Jan. 1, will account for around 321 million ECUs (\$273 million) of the increase — only around half the amount parliament reinserted on their behalf.

The budget is one of the few areas where the directly-elected European Parliament, which is trying to amass wider power, has a clearly defined role.

Ministers met a delegation of parliamentarians Tuesday after they began their final budget review.

Both sides described the meeting officially as constructive, but it left the ministers divided between hardliners and those favouring a compromise with the elected body, diplomats said.

Britain was not keen on increasing the amount of cash, while Ireland at the other end of the spectrum argued that even the revised budget was too small.

Italy was also against the compromise proposed by the Luxembourg presidency, but finally fell into line with the majority of member states enabling Britain and Ireland to be outvoted.

Cost of living reported decreasing in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia's cost of living has dropped 2.2 per cent, it was reported here Tuesday.

According to a statement released to the kingdom's newspapers by the ministry of finance and national economy, the drop occurred during Hijri year 1405, which is equivalent to halfway between 1984 and 1985.

The report quoted the Public Statistics Department as showing that the prices of foodstuffs declined 2.7 per cent, furniture by 4.1 per cent, and textiles by 4.6 per cent.

The ministry of finance also reported that rents for housing units have fallen by 3.2 per cent. In large cities, such as Riyadh, rent in the past 14 months has gone down by as much as 50 per cent.

The report said that prices of edible oils rose by 11.4 per cent, medical care by 1.1 per cent, and fuel prices by 25.2 per cent. This was due to the government's increase of diesel and gasoline prices.

The rise in fuel prices was designed both to cut consumption, and to begin moving Saudi petrochemical product prices in line with those of other Gulf Cooperation Council country prices.

Saudi Arabia still has petroleum product prices that are below those of its neighbours.

Ordeal hits Austrian giant

VIENNA (R) — The general director of state-owned Voest-Alpine A.G., Austria's biggest company, resigned Tuesday after it was announced the steel-making and engineering giant would make a record loss this year.

The minister for state industries, Mr. Ferdinand Lacina, told a news conference that General Director Heribert Afpalter and the entire management board had stepped down and would be replaced by the end of the year.

Mr. Lacina said Voest-Alpine, which began as a steel-maker and diversified into engineering, electronics and trading, would lose 4.2 billion schillings (\$230 million) this year.

The company, which employs 70,000 people, recorded losses of more than two billion schillings (\$100 million) in each of the last two years.

It received five billion schillings (\$240 million) from the state holding company Oesterreichische Industrieverwaltungs A.G. (OIA) in 1983 and 1984 for capital investment and to cover losses.

Unemployment in African cities exceed 50 per cent

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Half of Africa's city-dwellers are unemployed and the jobless rate has grown rapidly as a result of drought, a senior International Labour Organisation (ILO) official said Wednesday.

Mr. Vermudea Diejomaoh told a three-day meeting on employment policies in Africa that in 1983 urban unemployment had reached "a frightening rate of 30 to 40 per cent of the population."

The rate now probably exceeds 50 per cent, he said.

Greek 1986 budget envisages lower deficits, higher revenues

ATHENS (R) — Greece's Socialist government, which embarked on a controversial two-year austerity programme last month, Wednesday announced a budget for 1986 envisaging reduced deficits and much higher tax revenues.

The budget statement by Finance Minister Dimitris Tsoulas acknowledged that last year's budget deficits had far outstripped projections.

It said this year's shortfall was 593 billion drachmas (\$3.9 billion) compared with a projection a year ago of 454 billion (\$3 billion), but next year's should drop to 569 billion drachmas (\$3.8 billion).

Mr. Tsoulas called it a "stabilising, pro-development and socially just" budget, saying health, education and social welfare

spending would continue to grow while increases in other areas of spending were checked.

Without specifying exactly how, the budget said tax revenues should increase 32 per cent next year to 1.642 billion drachmas (\$10.9 billion). Spending should rise 20 per cent to 2.212 billion drachmas (\$14.6 billion).

The Greek government imposed an economic austerity programme on Oct. 11 including a 15 per cent devaluation of the drachma and two-year mandatory wage curbs.

It said this was necessary to deal with a balance of payments deficit expected to reach a record \$3 billion this year \$1 billion more than was targeted — and foreign debts estimated at \$14 billion.

Mr. Tsoulas said his budget, which also called for a sharp reduction in the losses of state-owned corporations, should "contribute decisively to fighting inflation and reducing the balance of payments deficit."

It was based on an assumption that inflation would fall from an expected 23.5 per cent this year to 16 per cent next year.

The austerity package has provoked an angry reaction from the left wing of the trade union movement. The main civil servants' union is planning to stage the latest in a series of 24-hour stop-

pages over the measures Thursday.

Air traffic controllers faint

Earlier, about 30 of Greece's air traffic controllers fainted after spending more than 40 hours without eating or sleeping to protest over government plans to cut their overtime bonuses, controllers said.

More than 400 controllers, along with about 200 airport administration employees and 200 airport electronics workers began an indefinite sleep and hunger strike earlier on Monday.

Flights have not so far been affected by the protest.

Yugoslav presidency voices concern over economy

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav state leadership has issued a sombre warning to Prime Minister Milka Planinc's government that a worsening economic crisis could spark social unrest among the country's 22 million people.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said Tuesday that the eight-man collective presidency delivered its message at an emergency joint session with the government.

Mr. Radovan Vojakovic, current head by rotation of the presidency, was quoted as telling the Planinc government not to relax economic recovery efforts as it entered the last six months of its mandate.

Mr. Vojakovic said inflation, poor export performance and falling living standards were stirring "dissatisfaction" among Yugoslavs.

If these negative tendencies were not halted, "we must face a realistic possibility of being faced with deep social disturbances and shocks," Mr. Vojakovic said.

The crisis, he said, had weakened the ideological, political and security situation in Yugoslavia as well as eroding its international authority.

Mr. Vojakovic said the state presidency had called a meeting early next month of presidents of the six constituent republics and two autonomous provinces in the federation to hammer out a consensus on important economic reform legislation that has been blocked by regional opposition.

Draft laws that are bogged down at present include reform of the foreign exchange distribution system and of the decentralised banking system that hinders the flow of capital around the country.

Mr. Planinc, alluding to resistance from the republics to federal reform legislation, said unity of key changes to the system was being resisted "only slowly and with difficulty."

The presidency listed the economic tasks before the government as cutting inflation drastically, unifying the internal market along federal lines, increasing production and exports, repaying foreign debts, increasing the inflow of foreign currency and enforcing austerity.

Sagging oil market jeopardises Indonesian growth

JAKARTA (R) — The sagging international oil market has jolted Indonesia's oil-dependent economy and the world's fifth most populous nation may not now achieve its targeted growth.

Finance Minister Rudianto Prawiro said Tuesday.

Mr. Prawiro told parliament that the world economic outlook held out little hope for Jakarta and the country was likely to fall short of the annual five per cent growth rate targeted for the five-year plan launched in April 1984.

"It will be difficult to attain the targeted growth rate," he said in response to a written question.

Oil and gas account for more than 70 per cent of foreign exchange and since the boom years of the 1970s have faded President Suharto's ambitious development plans enabling him to feed his 165 million people.

Since retired General Suharto announced the plan — the fourth since he took power — he has constantly reiterated that five per cent growth was vital to absorb the 1.8 million young people joining the job market each year of the plan.

Bankers said the government might be preparing to revise its targets after a statement by Development Minister Johannes Sumartono that growth would be less than five per cent this year.

Mr. Prawiro told parliament that latest figures for the first six months of the budget year which started last April showed a sharp rise in the current account deficit — a key indicator of the nation's economy.

The minister said the deficit was now almost \$1.5 billion at the end of the period compared with \$470 million a year earlier largely due to a 24 per cent slump in oil revenue.

Indonesia, the poorest member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), saw its production quota shaved by 111,000 barrels per day to 1.189 million last December. Jakarta has also cut the price of some oil grades.

The minister did not detail any budget cuts but last month indicated that the budget needed to be revised in the light of the fragile world market for oil.

Bankers said Mr. Prawiro's statement showed that the government was now publicly admitting its concern that oil prices could tumble next year if OPEC loses its fight to support the market by setting prices and production.

Oil Minister Suharto who is also OPEC's chairman said this month that world oil prices could dip below \$20 a barrel if the international market was glutted.

Dr. Suharto also said he would propose that the 13-member group adopt a flexible pricing policy at an OPEC ministerial meeting next month.

In 1983 after an OPEC agreement to slash prices by \$5 a barrel, Indonesia devalued its currency, imposed a series of strict austerity budgets and repudiated billions of dollars of major industrial projects.

The moves were applauded by the international banking community which says Jakarta has maintained a reputation as a sound borrower which has fended off the worst effects of the world recession and the Third World debt crisis.

In a statement to reporters Tuesday, Dr. Suharto said former world spot prices for oil were only temporary, caused by the coming winter in the northern hemisphere, and prices were likely to fall again by the second quarter of next year.

Syrian team to visit Iran for oil talks

TEHRAN (R) — A senior Syrian delegation arrives on Sunday for talks which diplomatic sources said will aim at restarting Iranian oil exports to Tehran's chief Arab ally.

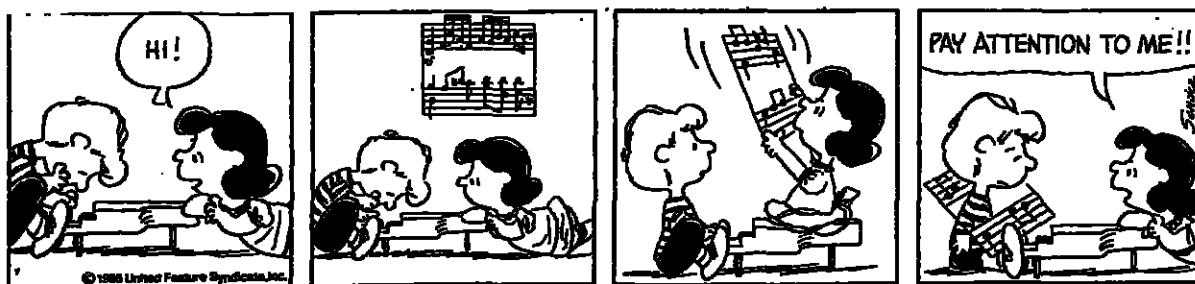
Alhaz newspaper said the team would be led by Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al Kasm. The diplomatic sources said other Syrian ministers would be included for the two-day visit.

Iran agreed in August to supply Syria with one million tons of oil free of charge and five million tons at a \$2.50 per barrel discount in return for political support for its long-running war with Iraq.

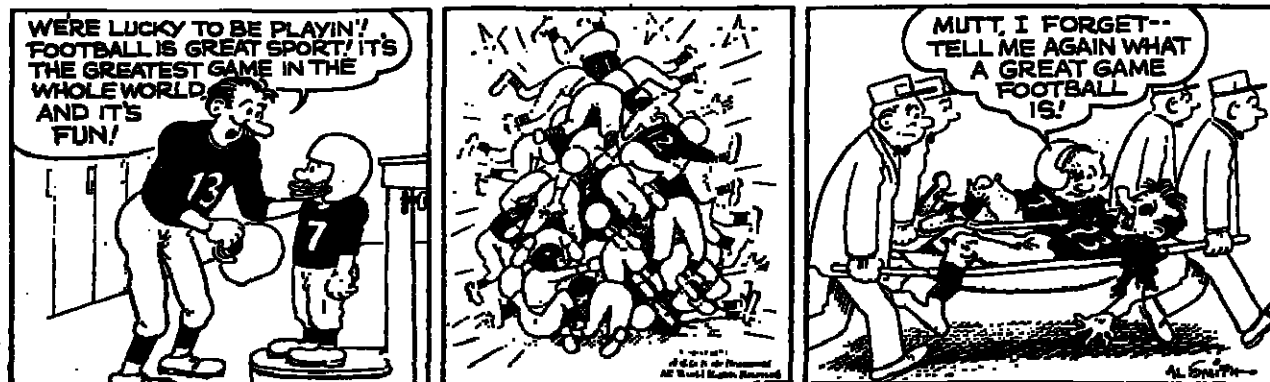
Syria took the first million tons of free crude, but Iran halted supplies of the discounted remainder in mid-September because of a heavy Iraqi attack on its main Kharg Island oil terminal and delays in Syrian payments, the sources said.

The sources said the two sides probably would agree on a way to renew oil shipments, adding the agreement might include an element of barter.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

